

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5386

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, XB

SUBJECT: GHAZALI SHAFIE ON FUTURE OF PACIFIC BASIN

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDRESS OCT 2 BY HOME AFFAIRS/INFORMATION MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, WHO ALSO A PRINCIPAL GOM FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, BEFORE CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN PACIFIC BASIN HELD IN SINGAPORE. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. CONCEPT OF REGIONALISM: GHAZ DISMISSED CONCEPT OF PACIFIC BASIN OR, FOR THAT MATTER, ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION AS COHESIVE ECONOMIC-POLITICAL UNIT. APART FROM PROBLEM OF DEFINING LIMITS, HE NOTED PACIFIC REGION HAS "NO ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER, NO COMMON HISTORICAL TRADITION, NO ACKNOWLEDGED ENEMY UNLESS BOGIES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAGNIFIES SUCH AS RUSSIA'S COMMUNIST EXPANSIONISM OR AMERICA'S

IMPERIALISM OR CHINA'S UNIVERSAL SINICISM OR JAPAN'S MILITARISM". HE CONCLUDED THAT EXISTING REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (READ ASEAN) SHOULD BE FOCUS OF ATTENTION AND ASSISTANCE BY EXTERNAL POWERS.

3. NIXON DOCTRINE: GHAS SAID 1969 GUAM DECLARATION PROVIDED FRAMEWORK FOR DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM MAINLAND ASIA BUT WAS NOT A COMPLETE GUIDELINE FOR FUTURE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ASIA. DOCTRINE, HOWEVER, "DOES NOT SPELL DECLINE OF AMERICAN POWER OR PARTICIPATION IN ASIAN-PACIFIC AFFAIRS, NOR DOES IT MEAN LOSS OF AMERICAN WILL TO PLAY ITS PART". "PRESENT AMERICAN POSTURE," HE SAID, "DISGUISES DILEMMA AMERICA IS FACING AS TO WHAT THAT PART SHOULD BE." ALSO, AMERICAN PARTICIPATION BASED ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC MEANS (AS OPPOSED TO MILITARY POWER) WILL SIGNAL RETURN TO REALISM IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY RATHER THAN RETREAT.

4. JAPAN: HE SAID JAPAN WILL NOT ENHANCE ITS SECURITY OR INCREASE STABILITY IN ASIA BY EXERCISING NUCLEAR OPTION OR CHANGING ROLE FROM WHAT IT IS AT PRESENT. "WHAT IS NEEDED IN JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY," HE SAID, "IS NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTRAINT...(TO) AVOID EXCESSES AND EXERCISE CAUTION IN PROMOTING HER ECONOMIC INTERESTS." HE CALLED, IN SHORT, FOR "LESS EXPLOITATION AND MORE EQUITY".

5. CHINA: "KEY TO PEACE, STABILITY AND SECURITY LIES ESSENTIALLY" WITH PRC, ACCORDING TO GHAS, AND FEARS CONCERNING PRC AMBITIONS ARISING OUT OF IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT MUST BE ALLAYED. RE OVERSEAS CHINESE, HE CALLED ON PRC TO FORESWEAR RACIAL IMPERIALISM AND FOR LOCAL CHINESE TO CHANGE BUSINESS METHODS AND CUT "ABIDING TIE WITH THE MOTHERLAND". HE ALSO SAID SEA GOVTS NEED TO "NURTURE SENSE OF BELONGING" ON PART OF OVERSEAS CHINESE.

6. USSR: GHAS COMMENTED THAT ANY SOVIET INITIATIVE (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL) DESIGNED TO FURTHER ITS INTERESTS IN DISPUTE WITH PRC NOT LIKELY TO GAIN SUPPORT OF ASIAN NATIONS.

7. SEA NEUTRALIZATION: GHAS SAID ASEAN "ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY" NOT "SWISS STYLE NEUTRALITY" BUT ATTEMPT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK OUT NEW PATTERN OF RELATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH PRINCIPAL POWERS. IF THERE "NON-INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE", GHAS CONFIDENT NEUTRALIZATION GOAL WILL BE REALIZED BUT "GIVEN AMBIGUOUS AMBITIONS OF MAJOR POWERS, PATTERN OF RELATIONS...WILL REMAIN MIXTURE OF CONFRONTATION, COMPETITION AND COOPERATION, WITH PERHAPS COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE THE DOMINANT ELEMENT".

8. COMMENT: GHAS WAS HIS USUAL MELLIFLUOUS BEST IN THIS BROAD-

BRUSH TREATMENT OF MALAYSIAN AND ASIAN INTERESTS. OF PARTICULAR
NOTE WERE HIS DELICATELY-PHRASED ADVICE TO CHINA AND HIS LESS-
THAN-OPTIMISTIC PROSPECTS FOR ASIA AS AREA FOR FUTURE BIG POWER
CONTENTION, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY CONFRONTATION AND DOMINATION.
WE ALSO NOTE THERE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS UNBRIDLED IDEALISM AND
PERHAPS MORE SOBER APPRECIATION OF BIG POWER ROLE IN ASIA.
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